

Green Era Educational NFP



R05-16-C-001

December 18, 2015

Mr. Matthew Didier
EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Mail Code SM-7J
Chicago, IL 60604-3507
Phone: 312-353-2112

**RE: USEPA Brownfields Hazardous Substance Cleanup Grant Proposal
Proposed Anaerobic Digester Facility
650 West 83rd Street, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois 60620, PIN 20-33-119-024
RFP No. EPA-OSWER-OBLR-15-06**

Dear Mr. Didier,

Green Era Educational NFP appreciates the opportunity to submit this proposal for \$200,000 Cleanup Grant for Hazardous Substance for the Proposed Anaerobic Digester Facility, at 650 West 83rd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60620 with PIN of 20-33-124-024 (Site). The vacant brownfield site on the South Side of Chicago is in an area with urgent need for cleanup and economic development. Restoring this vacant industrial site to productive use will not only revitalize a blighted brownfields property and reduce environmental and human health risks, but will also create a green tech campus. The goal of the project is to transform food waste into renewable energy and nutrient-rich soil for local urban agriculture. It will have a profound social and environmental impact while also creating jobs and sustainable neighborhoods.

Green Era Educational NFP is led by Chicago resident, Erika Allen, an African American woman who advocates bringing fresh, healthy and affordable food to Chicago's food deserts. Her focus includes the target area of the Auburn Gresham neighborhood, which along with other South Side Chicago communities, is extremely underserved. Minorities make up 99.5% of the target area and 30% of the population live below the poverty level, over twice the National rate, and 98% of those households living in poverty have children. Chicago has the highest African American unemployment rate among the nation's five most populous cities. The neighborhood made national news recently for the fatal, gang related retaliation shooting of a nine-year old boy. The community is desperate for change.

Green Era's project partner, Growing Power, has received national and local recognition for its work in developing sustainable food systems. Growing Power's Iron Street Farm site has been toured by Illinois EPA Director, Ms. Lisa Bonnett, Chicago Mayor, Mr. Rahm Emanuel, and First Lady Michelle Obama, all of which are supportive of the proposed anaerobic digester project at the subject Site. They recognize that by providing nutrient-rich soil to local urban farms, the Green Era project will be an essential link to bringing healthy food to underserved communities.

Michelle Obama states on her website Let's Move!, "The physical and emotional health of an entire generation and the economic health and security of our nation is at stake." The proposed project is an important step to initiate change. Green Era's plan to create employment opportunities and help target area residents acquire skills will transform the community. Green Era

is eager to help obtain the goal set by the EPA and USDA in September 2015 of cutting food waste in half by 2030. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, strongly indicated “Let’s feed people, not landfills.”

The target area has been grossly underserved thus jeopardizing the environment as well as the health, well-being and the livelihood of the community. The community is desperate to clean up the environmental contamination, develop the area, and improve the health, well-being and livelihood of citizens. The benefits for the Cleanup Grant are boundless. The cleanup of the Site will reduce the environmental and human health risks posed to the at-risk population; spur the economic growth at the target areas and communities by eliminating blight; and significantly improve the quality of life and livelihood of this desperate neighborhood.

We appreciate your consideration of this application and your assistance to make the target area and South Side of Chicago a healthy, prosperous and sustainable community.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Feldman, Green Era Co-Founder

Applicant Information:

A. Applicant Identification

Applicant Name: Green Era Educational NFP

Applicant Address: 218 N. Jefferson St. #300, Chicago, IL 60661

B. DUNS Number: 080074858

C. Funding Requested:

i. Grant Type: Cleanup Grant

ii. Amount: \$200,000

iii. Contamination: Hazardous Substance

D. Location: Chicago, Cook County, Illinois 60620

E. Property Name and Complete Address: Proposed anaerobic digester facility, 650 West 83rd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60620, PIN 20-33-119-024

F. Contacts:

i. Project Director: Jason Feldman, Treasurer/Director

Green Era Educational NFP, 218 N. Jefferson St. #300, Chicago, IL 60661

Phone: 312-544-9218/Fax: 312-767-9373

Email: jason@greenerapartners.com

ii. Chief Executive: Erika Allen, President/Director

Green Era Educational NFP, 218 N. Jefferson St. #300, Chicago, IL 60661

Phone: 312-544-9218/Fax: 312-767-9373

Email: erika@greenerapartners.com

G. Date Submitted: December 18, 2015

H. Project Period: Three years

I. Population:

i. General Population (Chicago): 2,695,598 (2010 Census)

ii. Jurisdiction Population (60620): 72,216 (2010 Census)

J. Other Factors Checklist: Attached

Appendix 3
Green Era Educational NFP – US EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant Proposal
Cleanup Other Factors Checklist

Name of Applicant: ____Green Era Educational NFP____ Please identify (with an X) which, if any of the below items apply to your community or your project as described in your proposal. To be considered for an Other Factor, you must include the page number where each applicable factor is discussed in your proposal. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal or in any other attachments, it will not be considered during the selection process.

Other Factor	Page #
<i>None of the Other Factors are applicable.</i>	
Community population is 10,000 or less.	
Applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	
Targeted brownfield sites are impacted by mine-scarred land.	
Applicant demonstrates firm leveraging commitments for facilitating brownfield project completion by identifying amounts and contributors of funding in the proposal and have included documentation.	X 4,7, and 8
Recent (2008 or later) significant economic disruption has occurred within community, resulting in a significant percentage loss of community jobs and tax base.	X 3, 4, and 13
Applicant is one of the 24 recipients, or a core partner/implementation strategy Development Administration (EDA) under the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP). To be considered, applicants must clearly demonstrate in the proposal the nexus between their IMCP designation and the Brownfield activities. Additionally, applicants must attach documentation which demonstrate either designation as one of the 24 lists/describes the core partners and implementation strategy parties.	
Applicant is a recipient or a core partner of HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) grant funding or technical assistance that is directly tied to the proposed Brownfields project, and can demonstrate that funding from a PSC grant/technical assistance has or will benefit the project area. Examples of PSC grant or technical assistance include a HUD Regional Planning or Challenge grant, DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), or EPA Smart Growth Implementation or Building Blocks Assistance, etc. To be considered, applicant must attach documentation.	
Applicant is a recipient of an EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant.	

NARRATIVE PROPOSAL – RANKING CRITERIA (PIN 20-33-119-024)

V.B.1. COMMUNITY NEED

a. Targeted Community and Brownfields

Targeted Community -The Auburn Gresham neighborhood, (located in the 60620 zipcode, 2010 Census population 72,216) is located in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The property is at 650 West 83rd Street. The City of Chicago is home to a range of neighborhoods each with a varied quality of life. As early as 1920s the University of Chicago designated Community Areas that continue today as census units. Auburn Gresham is #71 of 77 today. Areas are geographically distinct and static. The Project lies in Illinois Enterprise Zone 6. Auburn Gresham in the early 1800s was small German and Dutch settlements. In the late 1800s Irish railroad workers and others flocked to newly extended South Side streetcar and city services with extensive residential and commercial growth. In the 1920s, the population sprawled, increasing the neighborhood nearly threefold to 57,381. Auburn Gresham weathered the Great Depression and World War II and enjoyed prosperous 1950s. By 1960, African Americans seeking housing beyond the overcrowded and decaying Chicago inner city integrated into the neighborhood. Amidst racial violence and tension, population spiked again adding 9,300 residents from 1960 and 1970. By 1970 Auburn Gresham was 69% black. Today the Auburn Gresham area is almost exclusively a minority African American neighborhood. They have struggled over the years with the negative stigma associated with the “South Side of Chicago”. Low educational attainment, below poverty income levels, and high crime rates have perpetuated the negative stereotype. Opportunity suffers community-wide when isolated areas receive negative attention. In 2013 a 10-block area of Auburn Gresham was identified by local residents as a ‘war zone’¹ to local reporters and by national studies as one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in America². Fueled by a lack of local opportunity, decline perpetuates itself. The Auburn Gresham neighborhood is in the bottom 98th percentile in the State for low income population per the EPA Environmental EJScreen³. As urban decay progressed with commercial and rental properties in the 3.7 square mile neighborhood many went into bankruptcy or tax foreclosure accelerating business disinvestment. Blighted, brownfield areas extended over many community area residential neighborhoods.

Four blocks from the 16th most dangerous neighborhood in 2013 America is not exactly the first place that comes to mind when you think “green tech and renewable energy”. But that’s what is coming to this South Chicago neighborhood with the help of EPA funds. The unlikely neighborhood feature will be built on property taken from absentee bankrupt owners in the 1980s by the City of Chicago through tax foreclosure. Local food and organic wastes now illegally dumped as garbage or sent to landfills can be used positively to fuel an anaerobic digester (AD)/renewable energy biogas plant. The AD/biogas plant will provide nutrient rich soil to the local urban farms, and leanly and efficiently convert wastes to renewable energy. Designed for construction by us, Green Era, we come to the neighborhood as a 501(c)(3) non-profit group. The renewable energy biogas facility will be located at 650 West 83rd. Currently this community eyesore is receiving unauthorized dumping of flyash, dirt and concrete cylinders. Sandwiched between two rail corridors with residential single- and multi-family housing ‘just across the tracks’. The property was historically impacted as discussed later. Currently it is underutilized for staging numerous solid waste and recycling dumpsters. Being in a grossly underserved community the facility will serve nearby residents by providing job opportunities and spurring new growth and redevelopment interests. Our project will be a catalyst for change in cooperation

¹ *Living on the Nation's Most Dangerous Blocks Like Living in a 'War Zone'*, DNAinfo.com by Darryl Holliday | May 8, 2013.

² *NeighborhoodScout's Most Dangerous Neighborhoods, Top 25 Most Dangerous Neighborhoods in America - 2013*

³ EPA's Environmental Justice Screen (www.ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper)

with the City of Chicago and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in the heart of Auburn Gresham. We need the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a start-up partner to fill some financing gaps.

Table 1 – Contaminants and Health Effects

Target Area	Contaminants ^{A,B}	Public Exposures ^{B,C}	Health Effects ^C	Measured
650 West 83 rd Street PIN 20-33-119-024 Chicago, Cook County, IL	Benzene, xylenes (total), Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PNAs), carbazole, arsenic, antimony, barium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, aluminum, iron, manganese, and thallium	Ingestion, inhalation, direct contact, migration to groundwater, stormwater runoff	Cancer; damage to kidneys; liver; digestive, central nervous, circulatory, reproductive, and respiratory systems	Yes, reported in IEPA-approved work plan and report.
<p>A. Terracon Comprehensive Site Investigation Report, Remediation Objectives Report, and Remedial Action Plan (Terracon Project No: A2157000), May 2015.</p> <p>B. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency – Site Remediation Program.</p> <p>C. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs, online 2012.</p> <p>D. Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Cancer Registry online, data as of November 2014.</p>				

Demographic Information - Environmental and human health issues in the target area have hindered redevelopment. Social inequity exists in the target community as well. Relative to data in Table 2, the target area minority concentration is 80.9% higher than the rest of the City. The community area has an unemployment rate 5% higher than Chicago, IL. But the real struggle is where we will build. Residential blocks abutting the Project have unemployment over 30%, three times that of Chicago or the nation. With a local poverty rate of 40%, our project will address local unemployment in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood.

Table 2 - Demographics

Category	Project Area ^A 650 West 83 rd	Zipcode 60620	Chicago	State of Illinois	National
Population	869	72,216	2,695,598	12,830,632	308,745,538
Black	99.9%	98.1%	32.9%	14.5%	12.6%
White	0.0%	.5%	45%	71.5%	72.4%
Other	0.1%	1.4%	22.1%	14.0%	15.0%
Percent Minority	100%	99.5%	55.0%	28.5%	26.7%
Unemployment Rate	32.9%	14.8%	9.0%	5.7%	9.6%
Poverty Rate	39.8%	30.0%	22.6%	12.4%	12.6%
Households with Children Below Poverty Rate	70.7%	98.0%	96.6%	23.5%	23.5%
Per Capita Income	\$8,409	\$16,988	\$28,263	\$28,469	\$26,530
College Education	16.7%-50.0%	15.3%	34.9%	31.9%	29.3%
Median Household Income	\$21,143	\$31,752	\$47,270	\$53,974	\$50,221
<p>Unless otherwise noted, all data is from 2010 U.S. Census Bureau available at http://www.census.gov.</p> <p>^A From project address and abutting residential census blocks from City-data.com / Auburn Gresham online at http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Auburn-Gresham-Chicago-IL.html</p>					

Brownfields - EPA's online *EJ Screen Environmental Report (December 2015)* indicates that the Auburn Gresham neighborhood has 23 facilities with regulated air discharge systems, 3 facilities subject to toxic release inventory and 39 facilities generating hazardous waste regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Designated Brownfields properties were not identified within the Auburn Gresham neighborhood. The absence of designated Brownfields within the target area does not necessarily mean that Brownfields do not exist within the target area. The Auburn Gresham neighborhood consists almost exclusively of minorities (98.53% African American, and 0.98% non-Whites in the targeted area) and has disproportionately higher rates of unemployment, poverty, and medical problems related to lack of adequate health care, than the rest of the population in the City of Chicago or the State of Illinois. Without a doubt, social inequity exists in the targeted area.

Cumulative Environmental Issues - According to the Scorecard website (www.scorecard.com), Cook County ranks in the worst 10% of the Dirtiest/Worst Counties in the US for air releases of recognized carcinogens, recognized developmental toxicants and recognized reproductive toxicants. The website also indicates that the county is ranked in the worst 10% for the number of housing units with lead hazards. The Auburn Gresham neighborhood has over 100 facilities tracked by the EPA, predominantly for air emissions and RCRA reporting purposes⁴ and 21 facilities in the target area are enrolled in the Site Remediation Program (SRP)⁵.

b. Impacts on Targeted Community

The brownfield property adversely affects the community's environment, public health and safety (see Table 1), and economic investment and revenues by allowing environmental contamination to be uncontrolled. This also hinders the community's aesthetic well-being.

Environmental impacts are real, not speculative. Subsurface contamination includes: Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Semi-volatile Organic Compounds/Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (SVOCs/PNAs) and metals, which are known to cause cancer; damage to the kidneys, liver, central nervous, circulatory, reproductive, and respiratory systems. Human exposure to these contaminants includes ingestion, inhalation, direct contact, and migration through groundwater and stormwater runoff. Based on EPA's most current data, our industrial base has made Cook County rank among the top dirtiest/worst 10% of all counties in the U.S. in an average individual's added cancer risk from hazardous air pollutants⁶. The target area is still feeling the effects of the closure of the Kraft-owned Kool-Aid factory nearly a decade ago, and with Mondelez poised to cut more jobs at the nearby bakery, disadvantaged populations within the Auburn Gresham neighborhood appear to be trapped by economics, without alternatives to the "underground economy" that exists on the South Side of Chicago. Minorities are 234% more likely to reside in close proximity to area of Superfund sites; and, families living below the poverty level have a 224% higher ratio of being co-located with facilities emitting criteria pollutants.¹ Information provided in the State Cancer Registry⁷ indicates the annual cancer incidence rate in the county is 468-508, above the national rate of 453.7 (cases per 100,000). According to the 2013 Healthy Chicago Reports-Leading Causes of Death in Chicago (for 2007-2009), the leading causes of death in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood were reported as heart diseases (26.2% of deaths), malignant neoplasms (24.2% of deaths), and cerebrovascular diseases (6.6%

⁴ List of EPA-Regulated Facilities in Envirofacts (<http://www3.epa.gov/enviro/index.html>)

⁵ <http://epadata.epa.state.il.us/land/srp/>

⁶ SCORECARD - The Pollution Information Site, using site zipcode online at http://scorecard.goodguide.com/community/index.tcl?zip_code=61080&set_community_zipcode_cookie_p=t&x=29&y=6, November 2012.

⁷ State Cancer Profiles, National Cancer Institute, www.statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov

of deaths). The Auburn Gresham neighborhood had significantly higher death rates due to heart disease (230-269 per 100,000 people) and cancer (190-229 per 100,000 people) when compared to Chicago as a whole. Additionally, the Auburn Gresham neighborhood had one of the highest infant mortality rates (greater than 13 per 100,000 births) of all Chicago neighborhoods. The Auburn Gresham neighborhood has a high percentage of sensitive population, which includes people over 64 years old (42.1%) and high unemployment and poverty rates. These ratios are much higher than those in other Chicago neighborhoods and Illinois. An observed trend is seen in the rates of cancer among minorities in Cook County with a rate of approximately 508 cancer cases per 100,000 African Americans compared to 468 per 100,000 whites.

Cleanup and redevelopment of the Auburn Gresham neighborhood is not a 'feel good' project; it is about one of South Side Chicago community's survival. Environmentally contaminated properties, including the Site, impact the neighborhood children, health, safety, jobs, and quality of life. If we can address environmental issues at this property, it will be a step in the right direction towards the revitalization of the neighborhood by improving health, economics and overall livelihood of a low-income, high-minority neighborhood.

c. Financial Need

i.) Economic Conditions: The Auburn Gresham Neighborhood is among the poorest in Chicago. The poverty rate is 30%, higher than the rate of Chicago, Illinois, and Country. The median income is well below the City, State, and National average. According to City-Data.com, the unemployment rate in the Target Area ranges from 18% to 45%, among the highest in the Nation. Since the last economic downturn, the target area house median sales price of \$45,000 dropped by 70% from pre-2006 levels and the number of foreclosures has continued despite the recovery trend in the national economy. Due to the large South Side Mondelez Bakery layoffs, 600 jobs will be lost in the target community and adjacent areas in 2016. The recent national news of a fatal, gang related retaliation shooting of a nine-year old boy took place in the community. The need for social justice, economic, environmental, and community vitality is urgent and paramount; however, the community does not have any financial resources to develop the proposed sustainable AD/biogas plant facility in the neighborhood. The development of the facility will involve cleanup of the historical contamination while creating jobs, training, and promoting healthy living in the target area. Green Era is in the process of working with the Illinois EPA finalizing a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) of \$1,000,000 to clean up this parcel and two adjacent parcels, but additional funds to clean up the Site are still needed. With a community that is extremely underserved and lacking resources, the Auburn Gresham Neighborhood needs help.

ii.) Economic Effects of Brownfields: While significant environmental investigation milestones have been achieved, and the project is highly supported by the City, State, Federal, and local communities, funding for cleanup activities in this underserved area remains a significant obstacle. Financial assistance for the site cleanup is vital to the redevelopment of this industrial site. Advancing the innovative community-focused project will have profound social, economic, and environmental impact while promoting sustainability and healthier life styles. Despite money invested into the Site by the City of Chicago (\$40,000 for Phase I and II ESAs and a comprehensive site investigation), the negative stigma associated with the South Side of Chicago persists in derailing sustainable redevelopment and quality of life improvements. Green Era does not have the financial resources to undertake the environmental cleanup of this Site on its own. The IEPA, USEPA, and City of Chicago have been working with Green Era to address the Brownfields issues at this Site, however, the available funding is limited. The USEPA cleanup grant is needed to enable Green Era to implement the Remediation Action Plan approved by the IEPA in August 2015 and to carry out an appropriate course of action for redeveloping this area. The eventual receipt of a No Further Remediation (NFR) letter will allow Green Era to utilize the entire Site (this PIN and two adjacent PINs) as an anaerobic digester/biogas plant facility in this historically disadvantaged neighborhood. With the Cleanup Grant, this area could be

remediated, significantly aligning with numerous community and City of Chicago plans including the Sustainable Chicago Action Agenda 2015, World Business Chicago: A Plan for Economic Growth and Jobs (2012), City of Chicago: Green Healthy Neighborhoods (2014), Chicago Climate Action Plan (2009), Chicago: Eat Local – Live Healthy (2007), and Farmers For Chicago Program, Fresh Moves Mobile Food Markets. The cleanup of this site is not a “band-aid” to provide temporary superficial aid to the community. The development of this facility will have deep, permanent, and long reaching effects not only for the Auburn Gresham neighborhood, but the entire City of Chicago. Addressing environmental issues at this Site will improve the Auburn Gresham community’s environment and human health in the target area. The development of the facility will help combat high rates of poverty by creating jobs and trainings for the community that confront social inequity, reduce crime, and improve livelihood. The continued operation of the facility will give the neighborhood a powerful and positive symbol to rally around and take pride in. Community organizations, Green Era, and various government agencies will work collaboratively alongside community members to educate, formulate and execute a successful reuse plan for the blighted area. In a community that has been largely ignored and underserved in the past, the vision of redevelopment from the locals relies on the input and resources of cooperative efforts. These close ties with such organizations (detailed later) are an integral part of community involvement. Until remediated, the Site will continue to present risks to the health of Auburn Gresham’s residents and environment. By sitting idle, the Site does nothing for the community. By being cleaned up and redeveloped into an AD/biogas plant facility, the Site will become a source of pride and continued community improvement. Due to extremely lacking funds at the neighborhood and Green Era Educational NFP, additional funds are needed to complete remediation activities and successfully redevelop the site.

V.B.2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND FEASIBILITY OF SUCCESS

a. Project Description

i.) Existing Conditions: The Auburn Gresham neighborhood (2010 Census population 72,216) is located in South Side of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The Site (PIN 20-33-119-024, approximately 3.7 acres) along with other two PINs (another two cleanup grant applications) are approximately 9 acres encompassing the entire block between 82nd Street and West 83rd Street, east of the Rock Island District Metra Rail Line. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) identified several environmental issues associated with the Site. The Site consisted of undeveloped land in 1897 and unspecified “stock storage” and lumber storage associated with historical industrial companies from approximately 1910 through 1924. A paint storage structure was on the northwest corner of the Site. The northeast corner of the site was developed with a warehouse structure from 1910 through at least 1964. A Phase II ESA and comprehensive investigation was conducted. Based on the assessments conducted to date, it has been determined that the Site is contaminated with hazardous substances including volatiles, semi-volatiles, and metals, along with comingling petroleum contamination. It is technically infeasible to differentiate between the hazardous substance and the comingling petroleum contamination. The Site was enrolled into the IEPA voluntary cleanup program (SRP) in February 2015, and a Comprehensive Site Investigation/Site Remedial Objective Report/Remediation Action Plan (CSIR/ROR/RAP) was submitted in May 2015. The Remediation Action Plan was approved by the IEPA in August 2015.

Upon cleanup, Green Era is developing an anaerobic digester (AD) facility/renewable energy biogas plant at the Site. AD is a natural biological process that breaks down organic matter without oxygen, and generates, final products of biogas and nutrient-rich fertilizer. This fertilizer is ideal for Chicago food production/urban farming. The biogas can be compressed for use as a vehicle fuel known as Renewable Natural Gas. The project has the capacity to produce enough energy to power approximately 1,500 homes or offset nearly 1

million gallons of diesel fuel. This approach enables local communities to build stronger systems of organic recycling, renewable energy and soil revitalization. Through this project, healthy food will be provided to the local urban farms and the identified food desert area will be improved. The current site layout will be refined and updated after further engineering is done in the design process.

The project aligns with the following community organizations master plans: Sustainable Chicago Action Agenda 2015, World Business Chicago: A Plan for Economic Growth and Jobs (2012), City of Chicago: Green Healthy Neighborhoods (2014), Chicago Climate Action Plan (2009), Chicago: Eat Local – Live Healthy (2007), Farmers For Chicago Program, Fresh Moves Mobile Food Markets. All these programs focus on economic redevelopment, sustainability, and providing a healthier neighborhood.

The Site is located in an Enterprise Zone 6 designated area. The Illinois Enterprise Zone Program is designed to stimulate economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in economically depressed areas of the state. This is accomplished through state and local tax incentives, regulatory relief, and improved governmental services.

ii.) Proposed Cleanup Plan: It was determined in the IEPA approved Remedial Action Plan (RAP) that the cleanup plan would consist of soil excavation/disposal in the area with natural attenuation capacity exceedance of PNAs, in-situ chemical treatment for an area with lead over hazardous waste level, and construction of engineered barriers (either three feet of clean fill material, pavements, or concrete structures/foundations) and institutional controls (worker safety plan, offsite notification and groundwater usage ordinance). The proposed cleanup plan includes the following.

- Greener Cleanup Evaluation will be conducted during the cleanup planning stage using ASTM E2893-13 to identify Best Management Practices and incorporate the Best Management Practices into the actual cleanup.
- In-situ chemical treatment of approximately 8,110 square feet to average depth of four feet in the area of soil samples B-3, B-11, B-13, and B-16 to reduce lead concentrations below hazardous waste concentrations. This would be achieved by mechanically mixing a lead stabilization reagent throughout the target area. Confirmation samples would be collected from each area on a 20 by 20-foot grid and analyzed for total lead and pH. If hazardous concentrations are found in any area, additional treatment would be applied till all confirmatory samples show favorable results.
- Soil excavation, disposal, clean backfill and remedial confirmatory sampling at select areas identified (areas surrounding B-14, B-103, and B-104, approximately 2,400 square feet of soil from 5-9 below ground surface). The excavation would be backfilled with virgin stone backfill and topsoil.
- Using top 3 feet of clean soil and/or virgin stone as engineered barrier to address the ingestion pathway soil remedial objective (RO) exceedance in the proposed landscaped areas.
- Using City of Chicago's existing groundwater usage ordinance, offsite notification and construction worker notification as institutional controls.
- After redevelopment, exposure to subsurface soil containing remaining concentrations of COCs will be prevented by construction of new concrete foundations/building slabs, new pavement, or a three-foot clean fill engineered barrier. This will be coordinated with the future construction activities during the redevelopment.

If awarded, this approach, as well as other remedial approaches, will be evaluated in an Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) document, a draft of which is attached to this grant application.

The selected option as determined in the ABCA will address the contamination and reduce environmental and human health risks.

b. Task Description and Budget Table

Task Descriptions

Task 1 Eligible Program Activities (2%): This task includes the programmatic activities required by the Grant Cooperative Agreement with the EPA. These include implementing a competitive, qualifications-based consultant selection process, communication and meetings with the EPA project officer, submittal of quarterly reports, minority and women-based enterprise (MBE/WBE) reporting, submittal of annual financial reports, and prompt entering of project information into EPA's Assessment, Cleanup, and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES). The majority of the activities will be completed by Green Era Educational NFP staff at no cost to the Grant. Green Era expects that some assistance will be required by the selected consultant and has set aside a total of \$4,000 for the activity and direct travel expenses related to Green Era Educational NFP's attendance at necessary meetings.

Task 2 Community Outreach (1.2%): This task includes the preparation and attendance at public meetings to educate and solicit feedback from project stakeholders. Green Era expects to hold a minimum of two project meetings – one kick off meeting and one project progress meeting. The Community Relations Plan was prepared during the site investigation. Green Era Educational NFP's personnel time will be provided at no cost to the Grant and a total of \$1,000 (travel and supplies) was set aside to attend these meetings. Green Era Educational NFP will develop a project fact sheet and post the project progress on their website at no cost to the Grant. \$1,500 was set aside for the selected consultant to prepare for and attend these meetings and assist with the fact sheets and addressing public comments.

Task 3 Planning (1.3%): This task includes preparation of site specific work plans; the Final ABCA; research and application of necessary permits; cleanup bid documentation preparation and selection of competitive, qualification-based cleanup contractors in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations. The CSIR/ROR/RAP including the Sampling Quality Assurance Plan was prepared and approved by the IEPA. A total of \$2,500 was set aside for the selected consultant to provide assistance. Green Era Educational NFP personnel effort will be provided at no cost to the Grant.

Task 4 Cleanup (95.5%): This task includes the remediation activities in accordance with the IEPA approved Comprehensive Site Investigation/Remediation Objective Report/Remedial Action Plan dated May 29, 2015, and Final ABCA per EPA/IEPA approval. Soil excavation, disposal and clean backfill will be conducted in the area where PNA concentrations exceeded the natural attenuation capacity [approximately 380 cubic yards (cy)] and soil confirmation samples will be collected for COC constituents. One area of lead over the hazardous waste level will be treated using soil mixing and in-situ chemical treatment. Exposure to subsurface soil containing remaining concentrations of COCs will be prevented by construction of new concrete foundations/building slabs, and new pavement of the proposed facility as part of the construction. The City of Chicago groundwater use restriction, offsite notification and construction worker notification will be utilized as institutional controls. \$191,000 was set aside for the selected consultant's in-situ soil treatment and soil excavation/disposal at the areas where PNAs exceeded natural attenuation capacity. The remaining activities including field oversight, confirmatory sampling, reporting and IEPA SRP review fee will be covered by the IEPA RLF fund. Green Era Educational NFP personnel effort will be provided at no cost to the Grant. The cleanup project cost estimates for this Site includes \$35,340 (\$93/cy for 380 cy) for soil excavation, disposal and backfilling; \$15,200 of clean backfill (\$40/cy for 380 cy), \$72,000 for in-situ soil treatment of hazardous lead (\$46/cy for 1,565 cy of the area), and \$68,460 for digging to the attenuation exceedance interval (\$10/cy for 6,846 cy). This concludes the cleanup portion of the total budget at \$191,000. The remaining required cost to clean up the Site including confirmatory sampling (\$12,000), consultant field oversight (\$50,000), utility and landscape area soil excavation, disposal and backfill (\$133/cy, 2429 cy,

totaling \$323,000), reporting (\$25,000), IEPA SRP review fee (\$10,000) and site closure (\$5,000) will be covered by the IEPA run RLF money. Green Era will secure \$1,000,000 RLF from the IEPA for this Site and two adjacent parcels to develop the entire project and is currently in the process of completing the Intergovernmental Agreement. \$425,000 of the total RLF will cover this Site.

Cost Share (20%): Green Era understands that twenty percent (20%) of the Grant amount is required and is committed to provide the required cost share through eligible in-kind services and supplies. A total of \$40,000 cost share is committed by Green Era through in-kind services and necessary supplies/equipment. Two (2) Green Era personnel will devote their time (15% Project Director, 6 hours/week and 10% Project Executive, 3 hours/week) to this project, which is equivalent to approximately 0.225 full time equivalent throughout the project period. Green Era's specialty engineering partner which is designing the AD facility, will provide civil engineering review and assistance during the environmental cleanup planning to account towards cost share. All Green Era's personnel effort (except direct travel cost to participate in necessary trainings and meetings) including volunteers will be accounted as in-kind services and will not be at EPA Grant's cost. Green Era will provide additional necessary effort at no cost besides cost-share.

Budget Table

Table 3 - Hazardous Substances Budget Details

Budget Categories	Task 1 – Eligible Program Activities	Task 2 – Community Outreach	Task 3 – Planning	Task 4 – Cleanup	Project Totals
Personnel	0	0	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits	0	0	0	0	0
Travel	2,000	500	0	0	\$2,500
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0
Supplies	0	500	0	0	\$500
Contractual	2,000	1,500	2,500	191,000	\$197,000
Total Grant	4,000	2,500	2,500	191,000	\$200,000
Cost-Share	800	500	500	38,200	\$40,000
Total Budget	\$4,800	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$229,200	\$240,000

The total project cost estimate for the three PIN area is approximately \$1,720,000. Green Era will secure \$1,000,000 through the IEPA run RLF. This EPA \$200,000 Cleanup Grant for this PIN (Green Era is also applying for two separate \$200,000 cleanup grants for two adjoining PINs, totaling \$600,00 in Cleanup Grant funding for the entire Site) along with Green Era's in-kind service will enable the completion of this project. The cost estimate is included in the attachment.

c. Ability to Leverage

Green Era is in the process finalizing \$1,000,000 cleanup money from the IL EPA run RLF and is currently in the process of executing the Intergovernmental Agreement (see attachment). Additionally, the previous comprehensive site investigation, site remedial objective report and remediation action plan were prepared with financial resources from the City of Chicago (\$40,000). However, an additional EPA Cleanup Grant funding is needed to complement the existing funding to complete the site cleanup as approved by the IL EPA.

Table 4 – Leveraging Details

Funding Sources	Funding Amount	Total Budget Needed To Complete the Cleanup Project
IEPA Revolving Loan Fund (3 Pins Total)	\$1,000,000 (3 PINs, \$425,000 for PIN 20-33- 119-024)	Field oversight, reporting, confirmatory sampling, and utility/landscaped area soil excavation and disposal.
USEPA Cleanup Grant Applied (PIN: 20-33-119-024)	\$200,000	Soil excavation, disposal, in-situ chemical treatment.
USEPA Cleanup Grant Applied (PIN: 20-33-124-001)	\$200,000	Soil excavation and disposal.
USEPA Cleanup Grant Applied (PIN: 20-33-124-002)	\$200,000	Soil excavation and disposal
Green Era In-Kind Services	\$120,000 (\$40,000 for each PIN application)	Project management, community involvement, etc.
Total	\$1,720,000	\$1,720,000

V.B.3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

a. Plan for Involving the Community and Other Stakeholders, and, Communicating Project Progress

Site cleanup is recognized as an effective tool to make our community vibrant, clean, equitable, sustainable, and prosperous. Understanding the output, outcome and timeframe demonstrates to our stakeholders that we are committed to make a difference in our community. We know the sooner the cleanup is completed, the quicker our community can begin its revitalization, providing hope for the future. Green Era has developed guidelines to insure that projects proposed will meet the outcome of protecting human health and environment and promoting sustainable development practices. As Green Era implements the Brownfields cleanup, we will track the amount of potential tax increment captures and future development opportunities. Green Era also intends to track this information on its website and regular Alderman's meetings, to inform the communities of the various successes afforded by the Brownfields cleanup, ultimately culminating with an NFR letter.

Green Era recognizes that community involvement is one of the most important factors in the redevelopment process. Green Era is committed to maintaining clear and responsive communication with residents through public meetings at 21st Ward Alderman Howard Brookins, Jr.'s Office. Green Era has participated in public meetings held by City committees including the Community Development Commission and the Chicago Plan Commission. Project successes will be updated regularly through Green Era's website. Brownfield educational materials will be made available to enhance public understanding of the project. Green Era will provide local media with access to meetings and public discussions, as well as providing press releases, media advisories, periodic community progress reports, and other informational materials. Green Era will also utilize social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter etc.) to inform the community of progress, meeting dates, etc.

Green Era will identify local community groups in the targeted area and invite them to the site to show project progress. Green Era will work with Growing Power, its strategic partner, to educate and provide volunteer training. Growing Power currently has eight urban farm sites throughout Chicago and has employed over 300 Chicago teens in food system development and urban farming, Volunteers contributed over 2,500 hours of work and composted over 600,000 lbs. of food waste at the Iron Street Facility. Growing Power Founder, Will Allen, was the recipient of MacArthur Genius Grant and 2010 Time 100 Most Influential People.

b. Partnerships with Government Agencies

The City of Chicago funded the Phase I, Phase II, and comprehensive investigation activities at the Site. The City is committed to assisting with site planning efforts and connecting key community stakeholders to support the success of the project. Green Era has also been working with IEPA, USEPA Region 5, Cook County, Illinois Department of Health, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development, and Illinois Department of Agriculture on this proposed redevelopment. The site was enrolled into the IEPA Voluntary Cleanup Program (SRP) to ensure cleanup actions will be protective of human health. Currently, Green Era and the IEPA are working on a \$1,000,000 Revolving Loan Fund to partially fund the cleanup at the Site and two adjacent parcels to ensure the entire AD/biogas plant redevelopment. Recently, IEPA Director, Lisa Bonnett and Chicago Mayor, Rahm Emanuel, joined First Lady Michelle Obama on a tour of Green Era's project partner, Chicago's Growing Power's Iron Street Farm, in support of this proposed project. Green Era is an essential link to provide nutrient rich soil to the local urban farms and promote sustainability and healthy life styles in underserved communities.

c. Partnerships with Community Organizations

Community Organization Description & Role

The following paragraphs describe the key local community organizations involved in the project. During the cleanup activities, these organizations will assist with public education, distributing educational materials, and exploring the environmental training and local hiring program. This commitment is demonstrated in the attached letters.

1. University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Energy Resources Center: UIC is committed to providing the most comprehensive and up-to-date solutions to energy and environmental problems. The group will provide technical consultation when necessary.
2. Chicago Area Clean Cities (CACC): CACC's mission is to advance the energy, economic, and environmental security of the U.S. CACC has assisted in promoting the project to their 1000+ local stakeholders and will be providing additional technical assistance when needed.
3. Clean Energy Trust: Nonprofit that accelerates the clean energy economy in the Midwest. Clean Energy Trust will provide the project access to extensive network of energy industry professionals and mentors to promote and advance the redevelopment project.
4. Neighborscapes: A local nonprofit, which supports employment training for green jobs. The group will work with Green Era to provide young adults with career opportunities.
5. Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GAGDC): works to foster and promote revitalization of the low-to-moderate income communities using comprehensive community development strategies. GAGDC will provide consulting guidance, hold informational meetings and conduct community forums.
6. University of Chicago Booth School of Business – Booth Social Impact: BSI's mission is to foster a culture of social impact. At Booth, students are empowered to meet challenges facing our world. BSI will assist Green Era by providing consulting support and guidance when needed.
7. Strides for Peace: The organization's mission is to increase positive impact and make real progress in reducing gun violence. Strides will assist Green Era to promote the project.
8. Revolution Brewing LLC: Revolution Brewing will assist Green Era by providing spent grain from the Brew Pub.
9. LISC Chicago: LISC helps organizations transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy ones. The group will provide financial resources such as flexible loans, if needed.
10. Anton Seals/Seals360group: Anton's focus is in local food system development and educational opportunities. The group will assist by providing community engagement approaches, also with outreach and in asset-mapping training.

11. Chicago Food Action Council (CFPAC): Facilitates the development of responsible policies that improve access for Chicago residents to culturally appropriate, nutritionally sound and affordable food that is grown using environmentally sustainable practices. The group will provide assistance with outreach and advocating for increased support for composting.
12. Chicago Development Fund: New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) financing entity controlled by the City of Chicago. Will consider providing NMTC's when credits are available.
13. Seals 360 Group: Community-focused engagement and impact firm that will assist Green Era by providing outreach and asset-mapping training.
14. Growing Power: a national nonprofit organization and land trust helping to provide equal access to healthy, high-quality, safe and affordable food for people in all communities. The group will utilize the project's nutrient-rich soil for urban farming expansion. The group will work in partnership with Green Era to provide education and training to the local community stakeholders and continue to expand the economic opportunities.

Alderman Howard Brookins is the Alderman of the 21st Ward where project is located. Alderman and his staff have provided valuable guidance and support throughout the project development process and communities engagement. The following organizations have also pledged their support to Green Era: Chicago Park District, Ross Barney Architects, Grow Greater Englewood, Black Oaks, Jim Slama Farmed Here, Goodness Greeness, Residents About Greater Englewood, Urban League, Revolution Brewing LLC, and Simeon Career Academy. Green Era is committed to maintaining the relationships with these groups. Support letters from the community organizations are attached.

V.B.4. PROJECT BENEFITS

a. Health and/or Welfare and Environmental Benefits

i.) Health and/or Welfare Benefits - The Site cleanup will eliminate, minimize or mitigate risks to human health and the environment by remediating soil contamination present at the Site. The environmental impact will be addressed and the risk to human health will be reduced by the cleanup. Public health will be enhanced by eliminating soil ingestion and inhalation pathways and groundwater threats. With the cleanup, the heart disease and cancer rates in the area will likely to improve over time.

Residents as well as existing and potential business owners, see an unaesthetic vacant lot that accumulated illegal fly dumping. The area is in a neighborhood that has an unemployment rate twice that of the city of Chicago and poverty rate more than double the State and the US levels. The target area is in the food desert and food insecurity area. The proposed project will create jobs and opportunities for local residents to acquire skills. The AD/biogas facility will divert food waste from landfills to produce clean, renewable energy and nutrient-rich fertilizer that is ideal for local food production/urban farming. This will enable local communities to build stronger systems of organics recycling, renewable energy, soil revitalization, and healthy food. The cleanup and creation the Green Era's anaerobic digester facility will improve the situation significantly. The Site's cleanup will be a catalyst to the target area's sustainable redevelopment.

ii.) Environmental Benefits - The Site cleanup will address the environmental impact in soil and groundwater resulted from the historical industrial and storage operation, including volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, and metals. The lead hazardous level and polynuclear aromatics concentrations over natural attenuation will be reduced to satisfy the regulatory objectives. This will mitigate the environmental risks in the target area and the communities which now are in the worst 10%

dirtiest County with lead hazard in the country. EPA grant will be instrumental to clean up this one of the worst contaminated areas in the country.

b. Environmental Benefits from Infrastructure Reuse/Sustainable Reuse

i.) Planning, Policies or Other Tools - The project aligns with the following community organizations master plans: Sustainable Chicago Action Agenda 2015, World Business Chicago: A Plan for Economic Growth and Jobs (2012), City of Chicago: Green Healthy Neighborhoods (2014), Chicago Climate Action Plan (2009), Chicago: Eat Local – Live Healthy (2007), Farmers For Chicago Program, Fresh Moves Mobile Food Markets. All these programs focus on economic redevelopment, sustainability, and providing a healthier neighborhood. In September 2015, EPA and USDA announced their goal of cutting food waste in half by 2030. The City of Chicago is currently carrying out the Sustainable Chicago Action Agenda (SCAA) 2015, which focuses on specific criteria to make “Chicago a healthier, more livable, and prosperous place”. The Sustainability Council of the City is committed to delivering a more sustainable Chicago. The SCAA includes guidelines for Chicago to improve economic development/job creation, energy efficiency, transportation options, water and wastewater, parks, open space, and healthy food, waste and recycling, and climate change. The end goal of the AD project is to create jobs, grow the local economy, recycle organic waste, and foster sustainability to ensure the community residents have local healthy food and the opportunity to live a healthier lifestyle. The Site currently exists as a vacant lot near a major residential and industrial subsection of the Auburn Gresham neighborhood. With existing infrastructure in place to support the facility the need to create new streets and infrastructure is minimal. The proposed cleanup strategy consists of limited soil excavation and removal, in-situ chemical treatment, the construction of engineered barriers, and utilization of the City of Chicago’s groundwater use ordinance, offsite notification and construction worker notification as institutional controls. The use of the property as AD facility will produce clean, healthy soil for local farmers and support expansion of urban farming and City programs, divert commercial organic waste from landfills, and offset greenhouse gas emissions to help Chicago meet greenhouse gas reduction goals.

ii) Integrating Equitable Development or Livability Principles – The redevelopment incorporates HUD-DOT-EPA Livability Principles. Chicago has a shortage of market-rate housing that is attainable for underserved communities. Based on analysis by DePaul University’s Institute for Housing Studies, the greatest concentration of demand includes the Auburn Gresham neighborhood. Green Era has worked with the Chicago Infrastructure Trust and Strides for Peace on a self-sustaining neighborhood revitalization solution by developing new market-rate housing for the target area. Green Era will support the existing community by cleaning up the site to increase community revitalization including reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the AD/biogas facility to promote public health and sustainability. Green Era will enhance economic competitiveness by providing education and training for the community members of the Auburn Gresham neighborhood. The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) has plans or has recently built affordable housing facilities for veterans, seniors, and homeless individuals in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood. These plans include St. Leo’s Residence for Veterans, Senior Suites of Auburn Gresham, Veteran’s New Beginnings, and Lake Street Studio.⁸ Recent transportation improvements to the South Side of Chicago include a new Metra Station and the renovation of the 95th Street Red Line Station. Current on-going DOT projects include the street resurfacing of Racine Avenue, a major traffic artery for the community, installation of new residential sidewalks through the City’s Shared Sidewalk Program, and the construction of a new water main grid.

⁸ CHA website (<http://www.thecha.org/about/plans-reports-and-policies/>)

c. Economic and Community Benefits (long-term benefits)

i.) Economic or Other Benefits – Benefits of the cleanup grant to develop the proposed AD facility include the diversion of 50,000 tons per year of commercial organics from landfills. Positive changes include the offset of greenhouse gas emissions, up to ~25,000 metric tons of CO₂. Renewable energy (1.6MW) will be created to power approximately 1,500 homes or offset 1 million gallons of diesel fuel. The facility will convert waste into nutrient rich material for resale to help rebuild and re-localize regional food system and support expansion of local food systems. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, strongly indicated “Let’s feed people, not landfills.”

Redevelopment of this vacant and underutilized property is ideal and beneficial to the environment and the surrounding community. The property will be redeveloped into a sustainable project that will create renewable energy, nutrients to support expansion of local food systems and new jobs. In addition, the project will strive to incorporate green building design to minimize use of energy, water and environmentally unfriendly building materials. Instead of vacant land, environmentally beneficial landscaping and native landscaping will be integrated to beautify the site. Proper storm water management systems will also be utilized to reduce runoff and protect the local ecosystem. Vacant sites are a sign of abandonment and neglect and can create health and safety hazards. Converting this vacant property to a productive and attractive use will increase safety and help support the community by bringing sustainable and productive activity to the area.

In summary, the cleanup and proposed redevelopment will (1) Spur economic growth in the target area and community – new business ventures and job creation; (2) Reduce risks to human health and the environment; (3) Improve livelihood in the community; and (4) Create sustainable industry. There will be positive economic benefit through the cleanup of the contaminated industrial property which is at the center of the community. The cleanup will stimulate area-wide redevelopment and economic growth by removing contamination; increasing the potential of business, entertainment, housing, and recreational areas; creating more jobs through the cleanup and follow up redevelopment; increasing property values; therefore increasing the overall tax bases and economic conditions. The industrial end use will improve equitable municipal service in the target area and create a much needed environmental buffer in the target community.

ii.) Job Creation Potential: Partnerships with Workforce Development Programs – A study released in October 2014 by Chicago-based nonprofit Delta Institute projects that the Chicagoland region could add 39,000 local jobs by 2040 by diverting more waste from landfills. A key recommendation of the study was to “Support feasibility assessments for expanding anaerobic digestion capacity while promoting environmental justice.” Anaerobic digestion technology transforms a costly waste burden into a local asset. Economic impacts include the creation of new green jobs directly from the project through expansion of urban farming and across the supply chain. New industries and jobs are critical. The recent announcement of layoffs at the Mondelez, south side bakery will result in the loss of 600 jobs in the target area and nearby communities. Green Era will need to fill jobs during the cleanup and when the anaerobic digester/biogas plant is up and running. Local businesses will be contracted for biomass material handling, transportation, nutrient co-product management, and food production at Growing Power. During site cleanup activities, Green Era will promote hiring of local resources as much as possible. As previously stated, Green Era will organize an environmental job training and hiring program working with the community organizations. Local residents, especially the target area populations/sensitive population, will be encouraged to participate in the training program which will develop environmental and technical skills. These skills will allow residents to be hired to help the cleanup project and other redevelopment opportunities. The AD/biogas plant facility will support economic development by the creation of 30-40 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) construction related jobs and, at full operation, a staff of 6-8 FTEs. 100 new full-time jobs and new part-time job opportunities for local youth

will be created in the urban agriculture industry through Growing Power. The project will also create local research and development collaborations, expand renewable energy and recycling infrastructure, and supports clean water practices.

V.B.5. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

a. Programmatic Capability

Green Era's leadership has managed several grants and has significant project management experience with a proven track record. The following is the site cleanup project management structure.

Project Director – Mr. Jason Feldman is an entrepreneur, environmental activist, and project manager (managing projects with over \$8 Million budgets) committed to tackling pressing environmental, economic, and healthcare issues. He is co-founder of Green Era; co-chair of the Growing Power Chicago Advisory Board and helped launch Growing Power's Iron Street Farm, the largest urban farm in Chicago. Through his work, he was awarded the 2011 Keep Chicago Beautiful Urban Agriculture Vision Award and in 2012 the American Institute of Architecture Chicago SustainABILITY Leadership Award. Mr. Feldman is a frequent speaker on sustainability at venues including the 2015 EPA Brownfields Conference. Mr. Feldman has over 16 years of industry experience, having found and led a number of successful entrepreneurial companies. For example, Mr. Feldman was a founding member and serves as Director of Business Operations for Errant Gene Therapeutics (EGT), a Chicago-based biotech company specializing in rare diseases. Mr. Feldman played an integral role in raising multiple rounds of private financing and grant funding which led EGT to a clinical development company.

Chief Executive – Ms. Erika Allen is co-founder of Green Era and has been Chicago and National Projects Director for Growing Power since 2002, developing community food systems. She has established and managed eight urban farms in Chicago that provide high-quality, safe, healthy, and affordable food for communities. Ms. Allen's work has included leadership of the Chicago Food Policy Council and civic co-chair for The City of Chicago's Chicago Organic initiative's Education, Training and Schools sub-committee. She is also served on the Illinois Food, Farms and Jobs Act Council appointed by Illinois Governor Quinn and served on Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's transition team – Energy, Environment and Public Space Committee. Ms. Allen has served on the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Park District since September 2012. Ms. Allen has secured and managed millions of dollars of grants for various projects.

Legal Counsel – Ms. Meg George, attorney at Neal and Leroy, has been Green Era's attorney since 2014. Ms. George will provide legal advice to the project team.

Technical Consultant – Green Era will retain a qualified and cost effective technical consultant through federal procurement procedures (40 CFR 31.36). The consultant will provide technical services under this grant follow all federal, state and local rules. The selected brownfield consultant will have demonstrated successful programmatic experience in successfully implementing and reporting both EPA Region 5 Brownfield Cleanup and EPA Revolving Loan Fund (Loan and Subgrantee) requirements.

Should employee turnover occur, Green Era has two people listed, able and experienced enough to continue the project successfully. All staff listed who have been working on this Site since 2013, are contributing to this Grant application, and are familiar with the Site and the cleanup project. All subcontractors will be evaluated in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and regulations.

b. Audit Findings

Green Era affirms that it has never been audited.

c. Past Performance and Accomplishments

ii.) Has Not Ever Received an EPA Brownfields Grant, but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements

1. Purpose and Accomplishments – Green Era received \$40,000 assistance from the City of Chicago to conduct comprehensive environmental investigations and a \$10,000 Perkins Coie Innovative Minds Grant to establish the project operating structure and civil survey of the Site to assist the environmental investigations. Although Green Era has not managed its own Brownfields grant, we understand that progress reports will be necessary by submitting quarterly reports to the USEPA. These reports track several parameters including the activities completed under each task, key milestones, the amount of money spent, and other factors that indicate progress toward Green Era's and EPA's goals. Green Era, with input from our retained technical consultant, will ensure that all required information is regularly updated in ACRES as required by the EPA.

2. Compliance with Grant Requirements – All grants/funds requirements were satisfied for the Perkins Coie award. If awarded, all grant required progresses will be made as expected. All reports will be prepared and submitted timely and with approval by the Agencies (if required). Activities will be conducted within the planned timeframe.

V.C. OTHER FACTORS

As indicated on the attached Checklist, the Auburn Gresham neighborhood is an underserved, minority community having suffered recent food manufacturing plant closings. Green Era has demonstrated firm leveraging commitments for facilitating brownfield project completion

The Green Era Anaerobic Digester project, located at **650 West 83rd Street, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois 60620**, will affect both the following Congressional Districts:

- IL-013
- IL-001

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

12/18/2015

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

Green Era Educational NFP

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

46-2580661

* c. Organizational DUNS:

0800748580000

d. Address:

* Street1:

218 N. Jefferson St.

Street2:

#300

* City:

Chicago

County/Parish:

Cook

* State:

IL: Illinois

Province:

* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

60661-1307

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Ms.

* First Name:

Erika

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Allen

Suffix:

Title:

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number:

312-544-9218

Fax Number:

* Email:

erika@greenerapartners.com

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

M: Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.818

CFDA Title:

Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

EPA-OSWER-OBLR-15-06

* Title:

FY16 Guidelines for Brownfields Cleanup Grants

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Green Era Site Cleanup at a proposed Anaerobic Digester Facility in Chicago, IL
PIN-20-33-119-024

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant * b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date: * b. End Date: **18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="200,000.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="40,000.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="240,000.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .
- ☒ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☐ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email: * Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed: